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Former state secretary Arne Treholt, left, closes eyes as Norwegian judge sentences him to 20 years as Soviet spy

Norwegian Given 20 Years for Spying

By Bjoern Veseth
Agence France-Presse

OSLO, June 20—A Norwegian court today imposed a 20-year prison sentence on former Norwegian state secretary Arne Treholt, 42, one of the highest ranking western officials to be found guilty of spying for Moscow.

It was Norway's longest and most important spy trial, lasting 10 weeks. The court was told during the trial that Treholt had had access to vital NATO military information and could have endangered the security of the alliance.

Treholt, who pleaded not guilty, was fined \$78,000, and his assets were confiscated, including about \$52,000 that Iraq paid him.

He faced eight charges of revealing military and political secrets from 1974-84 to the Soviet Union and Iraq, and endangering Norway's security and interests. The court dismissed one charge relating to Iraq.

Treholt's value to the Kremlin was proved in September 1980, the court heard, when he was counselor to the Norwegian United Nations

delegation in New York. He supplied Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko with information on Washington's policy over Afghanistan just before Gromyko's meeting with the U.S. secretary of state.

Treholt's KGB handler told him afterward that Gromyko was "very pleased" with the information, the court heard.

Presiding Judge Astri Rynning said that Treholt must have had "unreasonable and unrealistic ideas about his own importance" because Treholt explained in court that he saw himself as a "builder of bridges" between the East and West in maintaining contacts with the Soviets.

The chief of the press department at the Foreign Ministry was arrested at Oslo Airport on Jan. 20, 1984, with a briefcase containing 64 top-secret documents.

He planned to give them to a KGB agent in Vienna, the prosecution said.

One of the most damaging periods for the West in his 10-year-long spying career came in 1982 when he enrolled at Norway's prestigious defense academy.

The curriculum included military briefings containing secret informa-

tion on Norwegian and western alliance defense arrangements. Norway has a common border with the Soviet Union.

The prosecution charged that Treholt passed much of this highly classified material to Moscow.

He left the academy to become press chief at the Foreign Ministry. At another point in his career, he was secretary to the Norwegian minister at the Law of the Sea Conference.

Treholt heard the sentence, the maximum penalty, without apparent emotion, although it was heavier than many expected.

His father was a former Labor Party Cabinet minister, and he had access to the highest officials in the powerful Labor Party.

The court heard that Soviet agents contacted him for the first time in the early 1970s.

The ruling said that while there had been no direct proof that Treholt had betrayed secrets to the Soviets about the allied mobile forces in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, he was nevertheless found guilty of doing so because of the mass of indirect evidence from different sources.